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General Assembly
Fifty-fifth session
Items 29, 33, 39, 74 (s), 94, 96, 108 and 166 of the preliminary list*

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

Culture of peace

Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies

General and complete disarmament: illicit traffic in small arms

Macroeconomic policy questions

Sustainable development and interational economic cooperation

International drug control

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Fifty-fifth year

Letter dated 2 May 2000 from the Permanent Representatives of Armenia and Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from our Governments, we have the honour to transmit the text of a joint statement issued by the Presidents of Georgia and Armenia during the visit of the President of the Republic of Armenia to Georgia from 28 to 29 March 2000 (see annex).

* A/55/50.

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We should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 29, 33, 39, 74 (s), 94, 96, 108 and 166 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Movses **Abelian**
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Armenia to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Peter **Chkheidze**
Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations

Annex to the letter dated 2 May 2000 from the Permanent Representatives of Armenia and Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Joint statement by the Presidents of Georgia and the Republic of Armenia

At the invitation of Eduard Shevardnadze, President of Georgia, Robert Kocharyan, President of the Republic of Armenia, paid an official visit to Georgia from 28 to 29 March 2000.

The Presidents of Georgia and the Republic of Armenia held talks during which they discussed a wide range of matters of bilateral cooperation and a number of current international and regional problems of mutual interest.

Taking as a basis the need to intensify the friendly, mutually advantageous and good-neighbourly relations which have developed historically between the Georgian and Armenian peoples, the Parties expressed their confidence that friendship and cooperation between Georgia and the Republic of Armenia would continue to develop in a dynamic and fruitful manner for the good and for the highest interests of the two peoples.

After emphasizing the significance of the solid treaty and legal foundation established in recent years as a reliable basis for the intensification of fruitful cooperation in all areas of bilateral relations and after noting that the provisions arising out of a number of agreements and mutual understandings had not been fully implemented, the Parties decided to undertake positive measures to work out effective mechanisms for their implementation. Appropriate instructions were given to the Governments of both States.

The Parties expressed their readiness to continue in the future their cooperation in the process of European integration and to collaborate within the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the European Union, the Council of Europe and other international organizations and forums on the basis of the generally recognized principles and standards of international law and in accordance with their long-term national interests.

The Parties will continue to cooperate within the Commonwealth of Independent States and to promote its further reorganization with a view to enhancing its effectiveness.

Noting the new problems and challenges facing the States of the South Caucasus in the twenty-first century, emphasizing the indisputable advantage of the evolution of the region into a single geopolitical and economic space and stressing the significance of the development and intensification of regional cooperation, the Parties agreed on the importance of developing integration processes in the region.

The Parties are prepared to take an active part in the development and implementation of proposals for the establishment of peace and stability in the Caucasus and intend to hold consultations at the multilateral and bilateral levels with a view to working out common positions that would promote the settlement of existing problems which are impeding the full development of their States and their dynamic integration into the international community.

The Presidents emphasized the extreme importance of carrying out active agreed measures for the full-scale implementation of the international programmes Transport Corridor — Europe-Caucasus-Asia (TRACECA) and Interstate Oil and Gas Transmission to Europe (INOGATE) and of obtaining support from the international financial institutions and attracting investments. The Parties will also cooperate within the Organization of Black Sea Economic Cooperation (OBSEC).

The Parties reaffirmed their belief in mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity and in non-interference in each other's internal affairs.

The Parties noted the importance of the further strengthening and development of interparliamentary links, in particular the exchange of experience with regard to legislative action with a view to the harmonization of the legislation of Georgia and the Republic of Armenia.

The Parties attached great importance to combating organized crime, terrorism and trafficking in arms and narcotics and expressed their firm determination to cooperate as closely as possible with a view to coordinating their positions and developing measures designed to prevent opportunities for the destabilization of the situation in the region.

Taking into account the spiritual and cultural heritage of their two peoples, the Parties welcome and will encourage in every way possible the further intensification and expansion of cooperation in the humanitarian sphere.

Done at Tbilisi, on 28 March 2000, in two original copies, each in the Georgian, Armenian and Russian languages, all texts being equally authentic.

(*Signed*) R. **Kocharyan**
President of the Republic of Armenia

(*Signed*) E. **Shevardnadze**
President of Georgia